

(b) Sir, international STD facility is already available in Coimbatore.

(c) and (d). Does not arise in views of 'b' above.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Tiruppur is exporting Rs. 700 crores worth of hosiery goods and readymade garments and there is on port there. What are you doing, Sir? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have to ask the question. You do not have to give me the information.

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: There is a very little telephone and telex facility. What action the Government is going to take to improve it?

The facility extended to Coimbatore is not working properly. Businessmen at Coimbatore are facing so many problems. I would like to know whether the Government will come forward to attend to this problem immediately.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that service between Coimbatore and Madras has deteriorated. There were reasons for that. Circuits were not sufficient, traffic was also more. At present there are seven in and four out circuits. As the hon. Member has said this complaint was received by the Department a month back and we immediately reacted to that. We have now added more to the circuits. At present, the number of circuit is 13 plus 10. It has been completed on the 29th of last month. We now have additional circuits available. And this problem of analogue and digital in this circuit, is also being looked into. We are hopeful that by March 1992, we will have 30 circuits and we will change over to the digital

one. After that service between Coimbatore and Madras should not be a problem.

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: What action the Government is going to take to give more telex and telephone facilities to Tiruppur which is exporting hosiery goods and readymade garments worth Rs. 700 crores per year? *(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: That information is not required. That is not going on record. Now the question is: "What steps the Government is going to take?"

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have admitted myself, the services were not sufficient. We have done the additional circuits and the waiting list in Coimbatore as on today is round about 17,000 on the exchange. *(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: That is not going on record.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: As rightly pointed out by the hon. Member, it is one of the commercial centres in the South. Knowing the problem, we have decided to add 10,000 lines by March 1992. So this will certainly bring down the waiting list. As far as the telex is concerned, the moment we have the additional equipment there and the facilities are available, I do not think that the telex problem will be there. In case if the problem still exists, I will certainly tie up with the hon. Member and sort it out.

Guidelines for Granting Extension to T.V. Serials

*145 SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines for granting extension to T.V. serials;

(b) the details of T.V. serials which were

given extension during the last three years including the number of additional episodes allowed in each case; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS):
(a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of

the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). Extension/revival to a serial is given after taking into consideration such factors as the intrinsic merit as well as its popularity. 22 such serials were given extension/revival during the last three years as per details given below:

STATEMENT

<i>Title of the Serial</i>	<i>Name of the Producer</i>	<i>No. of episodes by which extended/revived</i>
1	2	3
Ramayan	Shri Ramanand Sagar	26 (Additional 39 episodes for Uttar Ramayan)
Mahabharat	Shri B.R. Chopra	39
Karambhoomi	Shri Rizwan Shiraz	4
Kahan Gaye Ve Log	Shri Dheeraj Kumar	13
Zindagi	Shri Sunil Mehta	13
Manoranjan	Shri Kundan Shah	7
Aur Bhi Hai Rahen	Ms. Sarita Sethi	6
Bahadur Shah Zafar	Shri B.R. Chopra	1
Chunauti	Shri Rakesh chowdhary	9
Katha Sagar	Shri Sunil Mehta	13
Malgudi Days	Shri T.S. Narasimham	13

<i>Title of the Serial</i>	<i>Name of the Producer</i>	<i>No. of episodes by which extended/revived</i>
1	2	3
Quiz time	M/s. ITV. New Delhi	21
Himalaya Darshan	Shri Serjeet Singh	13
Adalat	Shri Dheeraj Kumar	13
Sunil Gavaskar Presents	Shri Sunil Gavaskar	13
Udaan	Ms. Kavita Choudhary	19
Kashmakash	Ms. Manju Asrani	13
Ek Kahani	Ms. Manju Singh	13
Maila Anchal	M/s. Chaya Dhawani	2
Gul Gulshan Gulfam	M/s. Cinevista Ads	19
Tipu Sultan Ki Talwar	Shri Sanjay Khan	20
Wagle Ki Duniya	Durga Khote Productions	13

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, can you give the gist of the statement?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: Extension/revival to a serial is given after taking into consideration such factors as the intrinsic merit as well as its popularity. 22 such serials were given extension/revival during the last three years as per the details given in the Statement.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether there is a proposal to re-telecast the 'Ramayan' and 'Mahabharat' serials and whether the last episode of these serials were stopped?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a supplementary along with this. Is it a fact that 'Mahabharat' was the most popular serial in the country, but permission was not granted for its revival. Another question, Mr. Speaker, Sir.....

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask only one supplementary at a time.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:..... Who is authorised to grant extension/revival of a serial? Is the hon. Minister authorised to do it or is it the officers?.....* If the authority is with the officers, what are the names of those officers? Is it true that they get some commission for granting extension to serials.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The last part of the question will not form part of the record.

[Translation]

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as 'Ramayan' and 'Mahabharat' serials are concerned, I would like to inform the House that every serial has to pass

through five stages before it is approved for telecast. At the outset the selection committee scrutinise all the serials. Thereafter four episodes of the serials go through the test. If that is given a green signal, the producer is asked to submit a pilot. If that is approved, then again four episodes are put to the final test. If even that is cleared, then a time slot is given. But before that there is a pre-view and the selection committee checks the theme of the story. Generally, Doordarshan approves 13 episodes of a serial in the beginning and if the selection committee thinks that it would be difficult to complete the entire story within 13 episodes or the plot demands some more episodes, the number is increased.

So far as 'Mahabharat' and 'Ramayan' was concerned the Selection Committee approved 52 episodes of each serial at the first instance. But when it was found that the story would not be complete even by then, the number of episodes was increased. Therefore, as I said earlier, the number of episodes of the serial increased depending on the merits of the case, the plot of the serial and the popularity of the serial. The Selection Committee takes a decision regarding the number of episodes, but the ultimate decision lies with the Secretary, I & B. This decision was taken in 1987*... when was the Secretary.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Names of officers will not go on record.

[Translation]

MR. GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it true that the Selection Committee stopped the telecast of the serial "Bhagwan Krishna"? If it was not approved for telecast, what were the reasons?. My second supplementary is whether permission was granted to telecast the serial on Vir Savarkar. If no approval was given, what were the reasons for it? My third supplementen-

tary is whether a film on the life of Dr. Ambedkar has been approved and the time by which the film would be telecast?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lodha, not like this.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): So far as the Krishna Serial is concerned, it has been submitted. This serial is one of the three thousand and odd serials submitted and called for by the previous Government. It is under examination and no decision has yet been taken.

So far as the question on Vir Savarkar and Dr. Ambedkar is concerned, there is no serial as such on them. But a film in memory of Dr. Ambedkar is being made and that does not arise out of this question. The details are not with me.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it a fact that because of lack of good selectors in the Selection Committee, we are not getting good serials. There is need to appoint good selectors and men of ideas in the Selection Committee. I mean to say that good writers and those who know a lot about various regions of the country should be appointed in this Committee so that we could get quality serials. Often we find such serials where emphasis is laid on some particular aspects only. Unless there are experts of different fields in the Selection Committee, we cannot improve the programmes. Will the hon. Minister assure that imaginative, innovative and hard-working people would be appointed in this Selection Committee?

MR. SPEAKER: Please reply this much only whether experts would be appointed to this committee.

[English]

SHRI AJIT PANJA: The delay is not at the fault of the Government. As soon as this Government started examining all these three thousand and odd proposals, there was a blanket stay order obtained from the Madras High Court. We have to obey the court order in which not only the serial; but also the commissioned programmes of any type were stayed. Recently about one week ago the judgement has been delivered. So far as the serials are concerned the stay has been vacated; but so far as the commissioned programmes are concerned, the court has asked to lay down guidelines - although we have some guidelines - we have to give it in one compact form before the court within three months. We are preparing guidelines according to the court order. We are going to the Law Department to know whether we can file an appeal on from that court order regarding the commissioned programme.

So far as the personalities are concerned, there were about 40 personalities, mostly all are non-officials. These are taken from the film field such as Director, Producer or well repute; Actor and Actresses of well repute; and also Social Workers and Mothers. Because the film is to be shown to 72% of the 85 crore population. So, we have tried to include as many as possible. My colleague has also gone into it in detail and we have increased the number now to one hundred because if all the three thousand and odd serials are to be disposed of, it will take time. If any hon. Member wants to know the names, we will supply the names of these persons.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Sir, I would like to submit, through you, that extension and revival of serials is a general topic every day....

MR. SPEAKER: Sonkarji, this will not go on record. Only your question will form part of the proceedings.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking the question only.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question without elaborating the background.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:

There are some special people without whom the serials are not approved, nor is extension/revival granted or the number of episodes increased. There is rampant corruption. I would like to know whether it is true that the people who wield influence try to misuse it by putting pressure on Doordarshan to grant extension of serials or in approval of serials? You would recall that the hon. Minister had stated in a reply some time back regarding a film on Dr. Ambedkar, that the Doordarshan had received some proposals for serials on Dr. Ambedkar and it is under active consideration. Today the hon. Minister said that there is no proposal for a serial and instead a film in memory of Dr. Ambedkar is being made. The hon. Minister may categorically state whether there is any proposal of a serial and if there is no such proposal, whether he would approve it, if a serial is sent to the Doordarshan on Dr. Ambedkar?

KUMARI GIRJA VYAS: The hon. Minister who is my senior colleague has just clarified that according to the new guidelines there are three non-officials and one official for the screening of any serial. He also clarified that at present there are about 100 members and 13-14 committees are functioning. I am surprised that under these circumstances how the things could leak out. Without any evidence or proof, I do not think it is possible to reply to this query. Secondly, it is almost impossible to believe that such a thing is happening as about 100 people are there in various committees. So far as the film on Dr. Ambedkar is concerned, it is being made in Bombay and about serial, we will let you know after verifying the facts.

[*Translation*]

Foreigners Settling Illegally in India

146. **SHRI BAL RAJ PASSI:**
SHRI SHIV SHARAN
VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of foreigners settling illegally in the country is increasing continuously;

(b) the details of arrests made in this regard during the last three years;

(c) the number of such foreigners who have been served orders for their repatriation; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check such incidents?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (**SHRI M.M. JACOB**): (a) Government is aware of the serious and complex problem of foreign nationals staying on illegally in the country. It is not possible to say precisely whether their numbers are increasing but the possibility is not ruled out.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Government is constantly reviewing the position and have taken steps from time to time, to tackle the problem of illegal infiltration and overstay. Among the measures already taken include: establishment of additional Border Out posts, Construction of more Observation post Towers, Strengthening of Border patrolling activity, increased stress on detection of infiltrators etc.